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EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 333

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22 September 1983

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CONCERN OVER IMPACT OF NEW 'PHILIPPINES FLU' STRAIN

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 29 Jul 83 p 3

[Article by Peter Hartcher]

[Text]

Philippines flu, the first major flu epidemic in six years, could claim up to 50 lives in NSW this winter, according to a virologist.

The chief virologist at the Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, Mr Alan Murphy, estimated that between 20 and 50 people would die as a result of the flu. He stressed, however, that this was normal for such epidemics.

The Philippines flu, a new strain of the 1968 Hong Kong flu, has taken hold rapidly.

The first case was isolated in Sydney in late March but since June it has struck thousands of Sydneysiders, although no precise figures are available. It is officially classed as a mild to moderate epidemic.

Mr Murphy said that victims are unable to work for three to four days.

Mr Murphy's laboratory is part of the World Health Organisation's network of diagnostic laboratories.

He said that the most vulnerable group is the aged. Children are also susceptible to it, although to a much lesser extent.

Mr Murphy said that death was rarely caused by the flu virus itself, but that the virus damaged the lungs and left the victim open to further infections, such as pneumonia. It was the secondary infection which caused death.

Mr Murphy said that since the Hong Kong flu in 1968, the world's population had been infected with one of its strains.

Changes to the Hong Kong virus occurred about every two or three years. The first new strain, named after the place in which it is first isolated, was the England strain in 1972.

It was followed by the Port Chalmers (Dunedin) strain in 1973 and the Victorian strain in 1975. Next was the 1977 Texas flu then the 1979 Bangkok flu.

The Philippines flu, known medically as the influenza A Philippines 2 1982 strain, is the latest mutation of the Hong Kong flu. Virologists believe it will also be the last.

"We've been expecting a major change in the flu virus," Mr Murphy said. "We could get it this year, but it probably won't be until next winter."

A major change would mean a total lack of immunity for people in every part of the world.

Anyone who has been infected by the Hong Kong flu or any of its strains has an immunity to at least the next two or three strains. But there is no immunity to completely different viruses.

The first outbreaks of a new flu are the worst. The first two waves of the Hong Kong strains infected about 60 per cent of the world's population.

The Philippine flu does not seem to be more virulent than its immediate predecessors, according to Mr Murphy.

The symptoms are no different: coughs, muscle aches and general debility.

The director of public health of the NSW Health Department, Dr Allan Crawford, said it was impossible to quantify the epidemic because notification was voluntary.

However, a virologist at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Dr L. De Silva, said that the number of flu victims admitted to the hospital was higher than usual this winter while a spokesman for the Concord Repatriation Hospital, which has a high proportion of aged patients, also reported large numbers in the past two weeks.

TWO PARASITES CAUSING GASTRIC DISEASE FOUND IN WA

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 3 Aug 83 p 46

[Text]

TWO parasitic diseases that cause gastro-intestinal disorders have been found in WA.

The diseases—giardiasis and cryptosporidiosis—are caused by minute organisms that are very difficult to detect.

Giardiasis seems to be most common among young Aboriginal children.

Cryptosporidiosis, sometimes found with people who work with calves, was not formerly thought to affect human beings.

The parasites, which are not a serious threat to normally healthy people, usually respond to treatment.

They belong to a growing number of or-

ganisms which research during the past few years has shown are capable of crossing the "species barrier" between bird and mammal hosts and humans.

Conference

The problem will be reviewed in Perth from August 18 to 20 at a conference of the World Association of Veterinary Parasitology.

The conference and a microbiology symposium on August 20 will precede the World Veterinary Congress at the Entertainment Centre from August 21 to 26.

The chairman of the parasitology conference, Associate Professor Jon Dunsmore of Murdoch University, said yesterday that parasitic diseases in animals were a major concern in the densely populated Third World countries of the tropics.

They also presented a potential threat to countries such as Australia, which had big livestock industries.

Parasitic diseases that could be transmitted from other animals to man or from man to other animals—zoonoses—were a serious medical problem in every continent.

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

YELLOW FEVER OUTBREAK--Bogota--A dangerous resurgence of yellow fever in the country, which has allegedly been covered up by the authorities, has caused the deaths of another seven persons in the past 15 days. Four of these deaths took place in Puerto Asis, and three in Sincelejo. [Summary] [PA061548 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Sep 83]

CSO: 5400/2131

RESEARCH, TREATMENT REGARDING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 25 Aug 83 p 13

[Article by Kirsten Sorrig]

[Text] Today the area of sexually-transmitted diseases is a much broader concept than in the past. There has been a change in the transmission of the classic venereal diseases and at the same time a number of serious incurable diseases have sprung up that have led to anxiety and concern.

Is sex dangerous?

There can scarcely be any doubt as to how the worthy Queen Victoria would have answered if she had had the opportunity of following the developments of recent years:

Last year around 500 men and 100 women became infected with syphilis.

Some 6,000 . and 4,000 women acquired gonorrhea.

Around 50,000 developed the sexually-transmitted disease Chlamydia.

An unknown number in the thousands acquired the incurable herpes genitalis and the newly-discovered sexually-transmitted disease AIDS took the life of the first Dane.

At the same time a discussion has raged back and forth over whether venereal diseases can cause sterility and cancer.

"I do not think the development really means that Queen Victoria will experience a new heyday," said administrative superintendent Dr Kaare Weismann of the Municipal Hospital Clinic for Skin and Venereal Diseases.

"But people are probably more careful than they were just a few years ago, even if they are not changing their lifestyles entirely."

Moralism does not lead anywhere, in the view of Kaare Weismann. What is needed is education about the outbreak and treatment of venereal diseases.

"It is important that people be aware that sexually-transmitted diseases today involve a much broader concept than in the past.

"A change has occurred in the method of transmitting the classic venereal diseases and at the same time the new diseases that have turned up which result in fatality make it necessary to step up treatment and to achieve greater openness with regard to preventive measures," said Kaare Weismann.

One of the changes in the classic venereal diseases involves syphilis. It used to be the most feared venereal disease, but now it can be treated effectively with penicillin. In the past syphilis was quite widespread, but today it occurs mainly among men with homosexual contacts.

Gonorrhea is one of the most widespread venereal diseases and affects around 10,000 people a year. Of these, 60 percent are men.

At the moment the number of cases for the country as a whole is declining, but in Copenhagen it is increasing, especially among men. From 1978 to 1981 the increase among men has been around 37 percent, while among women the increase has been 19 percent.

Both gonorrhea and syphilis are covered by the law on venereal diseases, which means that all patients must seek examination and treatment from a doctor and that all cases must be registered.

However the law does not include either the very widespread venereal disease, Chlamydia, or the incurable herpes genitalis, which in recent years has caused considerable anxiety.

Chlamydia, which like gonorrhea leads to urinary tract and internal abdominal inflammation and can lead to sterility in women and testicular inflammation in men, has [as published] administrative superintendent Dr Kaare Weismann: "People are probably more cautious than they were just a few years ago, although they have not entirely changed their lifestyles."

The disease has spread rapidly in recent years. It is estimated that around 50,000 people will be affected by it this year. The illness, which often has no symptoms at all, is very infectious but it is also easy to treat with antibiotics.

Herpes genitalis has also spread widely in recent years, but the exact figures are unknown. The illness often has no symptoms, but it can produce itching, swollen lymph glands and fever. It has created great concern and fear because it is resistant to all known forms of treatment and is life-long. Other reasons are that it can infect newborn babies and may lead to cancer of the uterus.

new studies also indicate that the so-called condylomata, which result from a wart virus and show up as warts on sexual organs, could lead to cancer of the uterus.

Paradoxically, the most feared venereal disease is the one that is least widespread. The first AIDS cases turned up less than 2 years ago and so far it is estimated that around 500 people in the entire world have had the disease and that around 40 percent of them have died. The disease weakens the patient's resistance to disease so that even mild nondangerous infections can lead to death.

So far nine cases of AIDS have been found in Denmark, four of which resulted in death. Another 10 cases are currently under observation to see if they have the disease.

AIDS was first discovered among homosexual men in the United States and it is estimated that around 75 percent of those affected are homosexual men with multiple partners. The rest were presumably infected by this group through such things as blood transfusions.

"AIDS has created widespread fear because we are confronted with a virulent disease picture and no one yet has any idea of how serious its consequences will be," said Kaare Weismann. "The infection is epidemic in character and resembles infectious hepatitis, but it can be hard to detect. As an example, there is a relatively new case from San Francisco in which an infant contracted AIDS after receiving numerous blood transfusions. The source of infection was probably a young homosexual man who had been healthy when he donated blood, but who died from AIDS 17 months later."

Venereal Disease Clinic in Copenhagen Closes

Copenhagen's oldest and most visited clinic for skin and venereal diseases at Municipal Hospital will be shut down.

At the same time the corresponding department at Hvidovre Hospital will be closed and all its functions moved over to Bispebjerg Hospital.

"There will be a centralization of treatment opportunities," said Dr Kaare Weismann from Municipal Hospital. "The clinic at Bispebjerg Hospital will be much larger than the one at Municipal Hospital, but the total capacity in the Copenhagen area will be smaller."

The clinic at Municipal Hospital has been in existence for more than 100 years and treats around 19,000 people with skin infections and 7,000 with venereal disease each year. It is housed in a cellar of the hospital, but despite the very poor accommodations it has a reputation for functioning well. Among other things because there are only six doctors and thus patients have an opportunity to be treated by the same doctor each time.

"But there will be 17 doctors at Bispebjerg and therefore patients will not always be able to see the same one," said Dr Torkil Menne.

Patients with Allergies and Asthma

Doctors at Municipal Hospital are aware that the possibilities for following individual patients will be poorer, which can affect continuity of treatment. Administrative superintendent, Dr Lis Danielsen said in this context:

"There are many patients who have asthma and allergies and it is important that the same doctor can follow developments. Other patients are the victims of torture where it is also important to have continuing treatment and a good relationship of trust between patient and doctor."

Doctors are also concerned that their current patients may not find their way to Bispebjerg and simply stop coming in for treatment.

"Most patients live in the inner city. Many are people in poor social circumstances who live in slum clearance housing or older people who have come here for many years. We are afraid that they might not continue with treatment because Bispebjerg Hospital is not as centrally located," said Torkil Menne.

Research Limited

Research is another area that will also be affected by the shutdown. In recent years the clinic at Municipal Hospital has conducted several research projects that have aroused international attention but these projects cannot be carried out to the same extent at the new clinic because the contact between doctor and patient is not as close.

Among the research results we can mention a just-concluded study that shows one out of every three homosexual men with multiple partners has amebic dysentery. A disease that is otherwise seen only in the Third World but which is now being linked with the feared AIDS disease, in which 75 percent of the cases involve homosexuals.

"The study shows an entirely new disease picture," said Dr Jette Christophersen. "Amebic dysentery bacteria can have a connection with AIDS, since both appear as infections and a weakening of the patient's immune system. In addition both are contagious. Even though there is a tendency to believe at present that AIDS is due to a virus, amebic bacteria could be a possible cause."

Another new study from the clinic provides a possibility of helping reveal electrical torture.

"In the past it has been impossible to prove that torture victims have received electric shock treatment, but at the moment we have come very far with a method that can reveal changes in skin cells as a result of electrical application," said Dr Lis Danielsen.

AMOEBC DYSENTERY FOUND WIDESPREAD AMONG HOMOSEXUAL MALES

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 19 Aug 83 p 7

[Article by Kirsten Sorrig: "New Disease Threatens Homosexuals"]

[Text] One third of the homosexual males with many partners have amoebic dysentery. Some 75 percent of the cases of amoebic dysentery, which is otherwise only found in the third world but now associated with the dreaded AIDS disease, occur among homosexuals.

During the last 6 months, the City Hospital Venereal Disease Clinic has given 350 of its patients the option to have further tests made on their intestinal flora in connection with inquiries about other forms of treatment. Some 250 heterosexual men and women and 100 homosexuals submitted to the tests, but amoebic infection was only found among homosexual men.

"The tests give us an entirely new picture of the disease," said doctor Jette Christophersen. "One third of the men had amoebic bacteria, which we formerly believed could only be found in third world countries with poor hygiene. The one common factor among the men was that they were all sexually active and had many partners. Indeed, the same group that is particularly susceptible to AIDS."

Jette Christophersen said that tests in the United States also show that a large number of homosexuals have amoebic dysentery. The symptoms are diarrhea and blood in the stool, and if the disease is not treated it can become chronic and spread. "The disease could be associated with AIDS since both appear as infections and weaken the patient's immune system. Furthermore, both can be transmitted," said Jette Christophersen.

About half of the males with amoebic bacteria had no symptoms, while the remainder was obviously plagued. When the disease is detected early, it is easy to treat with pills, which might possibly be a prevention against AIDS.

"If we want to learn more about AIDS and its causes, we must check high-risk patients for as many conceivable infections as possible. Amoebic bacteria may be a possible cause, although for the time being most tend to believe that AIDS is caused by a virus," said Jette Christophersen.

Up to now, nine cases of AIDS have been reported in Denmark, four of which ended in death. Furthermore, 10 Danes are now under observation to determine whether they have the disease. It is estimated that 40 percent of those who contract AIDS die from it.

The tests performed by City Hospital could be of international importance, since the testing situation here is more constant than in many other countries. This is because the tests include people from a large portion of Copenhagen and because all patients who come to the clinic are given the same standard tests.

8952

CSO: 5400/2574

THREE-MONTH SEMINAR FOCUSES ON ERADICATION OF MALARIA

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

CHIEF Medical Officer Dr. Walter Chin yesterday called on Mosquito Control Inspectors attending the opening of a three-month seminar to re-dedicate themselves to the eradication of malaria in the country.

He also told them to increase their efforts and efficiency so that they could be a credit to the Ministry of Health and the country as a whole.

The opening session of the training course was held at the Medical Science Library of the Georgetown Hospital, and was attended by a representative from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and officials of the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Chin said that Guyana was able to eradicate malaria in the '60s "save and except for

a few pockets in some interior areas", and added that the WHO feels that while it might not be possible to eradicate malaria, there could be control of the disease.

Dr. Chin said that the purpose of the programme is to help equip mosquito control

inspectors with additional knowledge to fight the disease.

He urged inspectors to see themselves as educators while working in the various areas, and to educate the people in the simplest language so as to encourage co-operation, with the Ministry's programme in the fight against malaria.

Eighteen mosquito inspectors from Berbice, Georgetown and the interior areas are attending the seminar.

9201

CSO: 5400/7500

BRIEFS

SPS DENGUE FEVER--Sanitary authorities, from San Pedro Sula, said again that dengue fever has again broken out, which, in the previous year, caused numerous deaths among children and adults in the northern region of the country. The Bureau of Vectors Control and the Sanitary Region No Three has been informed, in the last 3 days, of many cases of this disease, which manifests itself in the patient with severe pain of the bones and high temperature, according to Raul Anibal Flores, director of the Union of Workers of Medicine, Hospitals and others. (SITRAMEDHYS). However, he said that the public should not become alarmed, since judging by the appearance of the dengue fever, it is benign and not like the malignant hemorrhagic type that most always proves fatal. He expressed that the illness has been practically controlled in San Pedro Sula, not so in rural areas where people afflicted with this ailment are frequently under care.

Dengue fever is transmitted by a mosquito that incubates and reproduces at an alarming rate in swampland and accumulated trash, especially on tin cans and old tires that are discarded on the ground, with the result that in those neighborhoods and communities where the city does not collect trash, the aforementioned dengue fever shows up immediately, which also tends to propagate itself in the wintertime. They also blame the public for not cooperating with the systematic campaign that the Public Health has launched in an effort to eradicate this illness. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA 23 July 83 p 12] 12445

CSO: 5400/2113

DROPSY EPIDEMIC SPREADS TO GUJARAT AND RAJASTHAN

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Aug 83 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Aug. 17.—The Health Minister, Mr B. Shankaranand told the Lok Sabha today that there were reports that the dropsy epidemic had spread to Gujarat and Rajasthan, in addition to the cases reported from the southern outskirts of Delhi.

Replying to a call attention discussion on the epidemic, he said dropsy was caused by the adulteration of mustard oil with argemone oil. Seeds of argemone mexicana (prickly poppy) closely resemble mustard seeds and grow wild in the country. These seeds mature seasonally at the same time as the mustard seeds mature and thus there is likelihood of simultaneous harvesting of argemone seeds with mustard.

He told the House that on August 5, the National Institute of Communicable Diseases was alerted by the zonal health officer, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, about the outbreak of the dropsy epidemic in the Palam Colony area. The Director of National Institute of Communicable Diseases immediately sent a team to the area to investigate the reported outbreak.

The total number of cases detected were 121 with three deaths. In addition, information received from the Air Force authorities indicate that 92 cases have been detected in Maude Line (Air Force Lines). Thus, the total number of cases detected was 213 out of the areas surveyed. Further survey was in progress.

The Health Minister said that all the cases detected by the team from the National Institute of Communicable Diseases indicated that the victims used mustard oil. In a majority of cases it was found that mustard oil was purchased in the loose form. All samples of mustard oil collected by the team from the affected families were found to be positive for argemone oil. One major step taken till now, aimed at educating the community

against purchase of mustard oil in the loose form and about the steps for securing urgent medical relief in affected cases.

The Delhi administration has decided to prosecute vendors who do not conform to the stipulated standards. Samples of mustard oil were being drawn from several other areas of Delhi to ascertain the extent of adulteration.

Mr Shankaranand told Mr. Satyendra Narain Sinha (Janta), the principal sponsor of the call attention motion that the law against such adulteration was quite rigid and that the people indulging in it would be punished.

As for Gujarat and Rajasthan, he said the Government was awaiting the report of the team that had gone there to investigate the matter.

BRIEFS

JAUNDICE DEATHS REPORTED--Pune, July 11--Eight people died of jaundice and gastro-enteritis in Maharashtra between June 19 and 25, according to the latest official weekly health report, reports PTI. Jaundice claimed two lives in Akola district, and gastro-enteritis, one each in Aalna and Wardha districts and four in Nanded district, the report said. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Jul 83 p 7]

BIHAR KALA-AZAR DEATHS--Araria (Bihar), July 12--At least 13 persons died of Kala-Azar in Mohania panchayat, in the Raniganj block, during the past week, official sources said, reports UNI. The village mukhiya said that while the epidemic had spread, no medical aid was sent by the administration. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Jul 83 p 14]

GASTROENTERITIS IN PALGHAR--Palghar, July 15 (UNI): At least three persons, including a couple, lost their lives and 83 were taken ill at Palghar in Maharashtra's Thane district owing to gastro-enteritis which has broken out in an epidemic from following water contamination during the last 36 hours. The district authorities said 17 people, including five children and six women, were in hospital for treatment. The people affected were from the Ambevadi and Gandhinagar areas and the railway quarters. The contaminated water is believed to have come from the tank at the railway quarters. Medical teams were busy giving anti-cholera inoculations and attending to the affected people despite the statewide doctors' strike. The assistant district health officer, Dr S.V. Kulkarni, said all precautions were being taken and there was no panic. Medical teams from Borivli in northwest Bombay and Bulsar in Gujarat also came to the aid of the people. District sanitary officers also arrived and samples of the contaminated water have been sent to the Konkan testing laboratory in New Bombay. The water tank has already been thoroughly disinfected. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Jul 83 p 3]

GASTROENTERITIS CASES--A total of 14 persons died due to gastroenteritis, encephalitis and jaundice in Maharashtra during the week beginning July 10, according to the latest official weekly health report for the state, reports PTI from Pune. Gastro-enteritis claimed 12 lives--six in Thane district, two each in Beed and Dhule districts, one each in Akola and Buldana districts, the report said. During the week, 410 gastro cases were reported from 14 districts and three municipal corporation limits. The highest number of cases, 73, were from Thane district followed by 63 in the Nagpur civic limits and 51 in Parbhani district. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Jul 83 p 5]

CSO: 5400/7148

MERCURY POISON IN JAKARTA REPORTED

Kuching SARAWAK TRIBUNE in English 30 Jul 83 p 6

[Text]

Jakarta, Fri. — A form of poisoning caused by industrial mercury waste similar to Minamata Disease found in Japan's western Kyushu has been discovered here.

The discovery of the disease caused by contamination of water with factory waste water was made known in a report by Indonesia's Group 100 environmental protection organization.

The report said six Indonesian children living along the coastline of Jakarta were found to have symptoms such as hearing and eyesight disabilities apparently caused by industrial mercury poisoning. One of them died in March.

The mothers of the six children were all found to have eaten a good deal of fish caught in the bay while they had been pregnant, it said.

All the children suffered convulsions soon after they were born and

showed serious mental handicaps, the report said.

Checks of water in the bay showed that it was contaminated with a maximum of 0.31 ppm (parts per million) of mercury.

The average contamination was 0.095 ppm. The bay is surrounded by modern industrial plants.

From fish caught in the bay, the maximum volume of mercury detected was 1.2 ppm.

The environmental group plans to hold a three-day seminar on public hazards in Jakarta from next Tuesday with Japanese chemical experts from Kumamoto prefecture attending in an attempt to learn from lessons in Minamata.

Assistant professor Masazumi Harada of Kumamoto University will lecture at the seminar. — Bernama-Kyodo.

BRIEFS

SPREAD OF SPOTTED FEVER--The outbreak of spotted fever in the Hefer Valley settlements is spreading. The settlements' council health department in the area has decided to initiate a full-scale publicity campaign on the subject in all 52 of the settlements within its jurisdiction. The ITIM correspondent in Sharon reports that 40 percent of all spotted fever cases in Israel are from the Hefer Valley settlements. The disease spreads through direct contact with dogs that carry parasitic ticks on their fur. The Hefer Valley health department is preparing to spray the dogs and settlement yards with special powders. [Text] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Aug 83 p 4] 9794

CSO: 5400/4529

REPORT ON ST THOMAS HEALTH SITUATION NOTES PROGRESS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Aug 83 p 21

[Text]

A report on the health situation in St. Thomas presented an improving picture in the general health situation of that parish and a slight decrease in registered births in 1982 as against 1981.

The report was presented by Medical Officer of Health (M.O.H.) for St. Thomas, Dr. Earl Wright, at the Annual Conference of the St. Thomas Health Department on Wednesday, July 27, at the Morant Bay High School.

Dr. Wright told participants at the conference that over the last year there was a continuation of the trend of a decrease in the number of deliveries in rural maternity centres and an increase in deliveries done at the hospital.

He said that the number of babies delivered in the clinics last year was 16 while 2,500 were delivered at the two St. Thomas hospitals — Princess Margaret Hospital and Isaac Barratt Hospital.

While the number of deliveries at the hospital had increased from 2,178 in 1980 to 2,294 in 1981 and 2,300 last year deliveries at the clinics had decreased from 43 in 1980 and 26 in 1981. While there were 2,320 registered

births in the clinics and at the hospital in 1981 there were 2,316 such births last year the figures showed.

The Medical Officer of Health said that mothers seemed to be coming to ante-natal clinics at a later point in their pregnancy. There was a 14% increase in pregnant women coming to the clinics in the final tri-semester of their pregnancy. The MOH said that he was appealing to pregnant women to come to the clinics earlier as ideally mothers should come within the first tri-semester of their pregnancy.

The MOH also disclosed that more people in the parish had been immunized against Diphtheria, Polio and Tetanus (D.P.T.), and Tuberculosis and that fewer cases of gastroenteritis had been reported last year than in the previous year. He said that the decrease in reported cases and in admissions of children suffering from gastroenteritis may have been due to the introduction of oral rehydration therapy.

There were no cases of leptospirosis last year in comparison to 10 the previous year, he said.

There was also an increase last year in the num-

ber of patients seen by nurses in the clinics throughout St. Thomas.

The pill and the injection remained the chief form of contraceptives used by people visiting the family planning clinics. Of a total of 8,795 who visited the family planning clinics, 652 had rejected all forms of contraceptives.

Dr. Wright said that he was disturbed by the high incidence of malnutrition and poor sanitary facilities in some homes. There was also a shortage of staff in some areas. More staff nurses were needed at the Seaford and Yallahs Health Centres and there was also a shortage of 13 health aides, the M.O.H. said.

The meeting was attended by health workers from all sections of the Health Department. They included registered nurses, public health nurses, nurse practitioners, midwives, dental nurses, health education officers, officers of the sexually transmitted diseases department and mosquito control workers.

Among those bringing greetings to the meeting were Mayor of Morant Bay, Councillor Noel Flemming, and Dr. D. Ashley, former M.O.H. of St. Thomas.

KENYA

BRIEFS

MALARIA EPIDEMIC--An epidemic of malaria has broken out in villages neighboring Kitui town. Many children and adults have been affected at Kwa Ukungu, Kwa Ngindu, Kalawa, Misewani and Kavalula villages. Another hospital official said that tests carried in schools showed that some brands of chloroquine tablets were not effective. About 70 pupils in one school were treated for malaria, but when they were reexamined only 20 had been cured. It is feared that some malaria parasites could have developed resistance to current chloroquine tablets. [Excerpts] [LD020253 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 1 Sep 83 p 5 EA]

CSO: 5400/337

BRIEFS

CURE ON SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE--Kuala Lumpur, Fri--The government will restructure or set up new skin and social health clinics in general hospitals under efforts to contain the increasing incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) in the country. Deputy Health Minister Datuk K. Pathmanaban said in a written reply to Sen. K. Kumaran that the government would also make efforts to trace the contacts responsible for the spread of the diseases. The government would cooperate with neighbouring countries in exchange of information on STD and provide health education on the subject for tourists. He said sexually transmitted diseases were becoming more widespread due to social developments and growth of travel including tourism. The laws at present require all private doctors to report treatment of infectious diseases including STD to health authorities in their respective districts. [Text] [Kuching THE BORNEO POST in English 13 Aug 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/4479

RUBELLA INCREASE EXPECTED IN 'NEAR FUTURE'

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 8 Aug 83 p 6

[Text] Wellington--An increase in the number of cases of rubella (German measles) is likely to occur in New Zealand in the near future, according to the Health Department's assistant director of disease prevention, Dr. John Clements.

He said there had been an increase in the number of rubella cases recorded in Britain in June and July.

"In previous years this has resulted in an increase in cases in New Zealand a short time after, and we must expect the same to happen now," said Dr Clements.

"Although rubella is generally a mild disease, it can be dangerous if women contract it for the first time during pregnancy, with a chance that the baby will suffer damage to its heart, eyes, or hearing and possibly even brain damage," he said.

Health Department records showed that 44 babies born in 1980 and 1981 suffered from congenital rubella.

"The department is encouraging all women of child-bearing age who do not know for certain that they are protected by immunisation against rubella to check with their family doctor," said Dr Clements.

"A simple blood test may be needed to find out. Those who need protection can be given the vaccine, but this must be done well before conception," he said.

"The response of the community to immunise girls, aged 11, has been outstanding, with more than 98 per cent being successfully immunised.

"But there are still women of child-bearing age planning a family in the near future who are at risk.

"Recent research in this field shows that one in 10 women, aged 32 to 34 years, are still not protected," said Dr Clements.

CSO: 5400/4476

NATIONAL STATISTICS ON PARASITIC DISEASES PROVIDED

London DAILY TIMES in English 1 Aug 83 p 13

[Text] About 70 per cent of the Nigerian rural farming population suffered from various worm diseases.

This was disclosed in Enugu by the Anambra State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Ralph Rogers Obi.

He was delivering a keynote address to the opening session of the World Health Organization (WHO) international workshop on parasitic infections.

Dr. Obi said poverty malnutrition illiteracy, and poor sanitary condition of the rural villages favoured the high rate of these diseases.

He named the indiscriminate defecation in the villages as a result of the absence of pit latrines as the greatest factor for the spread of these diseases.

Dr. Obi enjoined participants in the workshop to come out with very concrete proposals on how best to tackle the nations health problem in this sector, and promised the co-operation of the state government.

In his welcome address, the vice-president of the Anambra University of Technology (UNTECH), Professor G. A. Onwumechili, said that Communicable diseases, especially malaria, measles and various worms took heavy tolls on the lives of the Nigerian rural population.

he regretted that generally the Nigerian governments tolerated communicable diseases because the country's health care system had had a dominant curative perspective and a rudimentary preventive compliments.

Prof. Onwumechili said that it was important to institute control measures for these disease as part of integrated rural development programme. Otherwise these diseases would sap the strength of rural development.

He disclosed that the biomedical sciences research unit of the UNITECH was currently investigating and analysing all factors responsible for the present prevalent rate of parasitic diseases.

CSO: 5400/333

DISTURBING INCREASE NOTED IN MENINGOCOCCUS-INFECTION CASES

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 20 Aug 83 p 8

[Article by Alf G. Andersen: "Alarming Increase in Serious Infectious Disease"]

[Text] An alarmingly strong increase in a serious infectious disease which results in contagious cerebrospinal meningitis and so-called real blood poisoning has been established in Norway. The health authorities believe already now that there will be a 50-percent increase over last year. This means that by the end of the year about 500 people will have been struck by the disease. The situation is characterized as serious, since Norway from the outset is the country in Europe which has been hardest hit.

The disease has high mortality, since a good 11 percent of patients do not survive the infection. Most susceptible are babies from one half a year to one year old and teenagers from 14 to 17.

Health Director Torbjørn Mork confirms to AFTENPOSTEN that reports have been received which indicate a heavy increase. The health authorities are thus keeping closely posted on the development.

"But as of today we know too little about the so-called meningococcus infection to be able to combat it effectively. However, intense research is under way to discover a satisfactory vaccine and to get an answer to how exactly Norway has been so hard hit," Health Director Torbjørn Mork says.

Medical Director Arve Lystad at the State Institute for Public Health (SIFF), who also is the leader of an extensive research project to find out, among other things, why the disease occurs so often in Norway, tells AFTENPOSTEN that as of today there are a number of unanswered questions regarding meningococcus infections.

"The disease, which is caused by meningococci, results for one thing in what is called contagious cerebrospinal meningitis, as it is quite regularly referred to in the mass media. But, first, cerebrospinal meningitis is not so contagious as it usually is portrayed. Moreover, so-called real blood poisoning is far more serious. The disease has mortality of about 11 percent,

which means that it will have a fatal outcome for about 50 people in Norway in 1983."

"The epidemic increase is totally unexplainable. The last few years we have had a high number of cases of the disease which has brought with it the fact that Norway is the country in Europe which is the hardest hit. In 1982 we had a slight decline, but now this has been more than offset by a further increase. Therefore, we look seriously on the situation. We have enlisted the aid of computers to attempt to get an answer to the many questions which meningococcus infections raise. We have charted all circumstances of 115 cases of the disease, we have gathered information on a large reference group of healthy people and we have obtained information on patients who were suspected of having a meningococcus infection but who had been struck by other diseases. We are studying the environment, information regarding individual people and other conditions which can throw light on the disease. All this is being fed into a computer and we hope thereby to find common denominators which will give an answer to a number of questions. This is the first research project of its kind. In addition, we are working concomitantly on developing a vaccine. But this is a difficult and time-consuming job which at best is not expected to produce results before several years."

Which disease symptoms should one be on the watch for?

"As far as so-called infectious cerebrospinal meningitis is concerned, they are fever, nausea and headache. But as far as real blood poisoning is concerned, a rash usually occurs which is caused by small hemorrhages under the skin. If this is present, it is important to seek medical treatment immediately."

Medical Director Lystad states that meningococcus infections can also result in aftereffects of a neurological nature.

"It is possible to get chronic headaches, concentration problems, speech difficulties, intelligence defects and increased tiredness. This is a question of more or less permanent injuries."

"There have been meningococcus epidemics previously in North Norway. But the latest development has shown that there has also been a heavy increase in Central Norway, which is now almost up to North Norway's level. The frequency in South Norway is also increasing."

"As of today there is no one who knows why North Norway, for example, has been hardest hit. Moreover, the disease occurs very irregularly--in the most different districts and environments. We are accordingly now in the process of studying the interaction of a number of factors and we now are hoping to be able to intensify processing of the data available."

Medical Director Lystad believes that we are now in an exceptional epidemic situation characterized by a number of unsolved questions--among others, the

disturbing fact that now a 50-percent increase over last year is expected. Meningococcus infections are so unpredictable that one can well experience a decline in the coming year or a continued increase. Physicians are completely bewildered.

8985

CSO: 5400/2576

BRIEFS

HEMORRHAGIC FEVER WITH RENAL SYNDROME--No case of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) was reported in Hebei province before 1980. From November 1980 to January 1981, 2 cases with typical clinical symptoms occurred in a village of Fengnan county in Tangshan area, Hebei province, none of them had left hometown before they fell ill. Convalescent sera collected from them all gave positive immunofluorescence antibody reaction (titer $\geq 1:1,000$) against Korean hemorrhagic fever antigen, using indirect immunofluorescence antibody test (IFAT). HFRS antigen was detected in *Apodemus agrarius* and *Rattus norvegicus* captured in the village and its rate was 3.7% (10/268) and 18.5% (5/27). Of 50 samples of *Cricetulus triton*, *Cricetulus barabensis* and *Mus musculus* captured in the same village all were negative, using the same methods at the same time. Further study showed that the antigen isolated from *R. norvegicus* and *A. agrarius* was HFRS antigen. This is the HFRS infectious focus demonstrated for the first time in Hebei province. [Text] [Beijing CHINESE MEDICAL JOURNAL in English No 7, Jul 83 p 559]

CSO: 5400/4162

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS DESCRIBED

Major Viral Hepatitis Problem

Warsaw PRZEGLAD EPIDEMIOLOGICZNY in Polish No 1, Jan-Mar 83 pp 11-19

[Article by J. Kostrzewski: "Contagious Diseases in Poland in 1981"]

[Excerpt] Contagious Diseases of Great Significance for Public Health

Viral hepatitis is one of the most serious epidemiological problems in Poland. In 1981, the total number of incidents actually decreased to 47,164, in the 5-year period, 1975-1979, there were 73,392; of this total number the number of incidents of type B viral hepatitis decreased slightly, from 16,089 in 1980 to 15,371 in 1981, but Poland must still be included among the countries with the highest incidence of viral hepatitis in Europe.

From this review of the epidemiological situation of contagious and parasitic diseases in Poland during 1975-1981, it follows that there were actually no drastic changes in incidence and mortality rates caused by contagious diseases which might be considered the result of the severe social and economic crisis prevalent in Poland; the whole series of unfavorable changes during the years 1980-1981 forces the health service, particularly the sanitary-epidemiological service to maximum vigilance and proper preventive steps.

Included in the unfavorable circumstances must be the increase in number of cases of salmonella, poisoning and food poisoning that must be countered by an improvement in the sanitary conditions in the country, particularly hygienic conditions in the production, processing and delivery of foodstuffs.

A disquieting development is the neglect of preventive vaccinations which led to a periodic increase in cases of tuberculosis, whooping cough, and measles. The progressive increase in cases of spinal meningitis leads to a penetrating analysis of the reasons for this and to taking preventive measures.

The level of personal hygiene of the population must be raised, and the spread of pediculosis and skin diseases, such as scabies and mycosis, must be prevented.

The continuing unfavorable epidemiological situation with respect to viral hepatitis requires continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of the preventive

measures adopted. The problem of intrahospital infections that claim many victims is inadequately understood. Development of improved systems of epidemiological supervision of hospital infection, and methods of preventing these infections and their elimination is necessary.

The difficult period through which the country is now passing requires full mobilization of forces and means of health service, particularly in the sanitary-epidemiological service. A source of serious concern is the observed decrease in effectiveness of the State Sanitary Inspectorate.

New Viral Hepatitis Vaccine

Warsaw TU 1 TERAZ in Polish 13 Jul 83 pp 8, 13

[Interview with Prof W. Brzosko by Karyna Andrzejewska: "Volunteers Have Already Been Vaccinated"]

[Text] [Question] Prof Brzosko, you are the director of the unit that is working on the new Polish vaccine, a vaccine against viral hepatitis.

[Answer] We undertook this work on the basis of information about viral hepatitis B that had been gathered by various scientific centers. We made a few authentic discoveries connected with this virus. But I did not originate the concept of this type of vaccine. The work on this was started by U.S. investigators.

[Question] What would be the date on which work on this vaccine was started in our country?

[Answer] In 1974 the decision was made to try to produce such a vaccine in Poland. In addition to myself the late Prof Bertold Flesser, then the director of the Clinic for Contagious Diseases of the Academy of Medicine, participated in this work. He was a person who undertook much difficult work.

[Question] Are many people in Poland suffering from viral hepatitis?

[Answer] Infection with the hepatitis B virus is the problem in Poland. Approximately 50 percent of all incidents of acute hepatitis are viral hepatitis B. We estimate that about half a million people are infected with hepatitis B virus, and annually we have about 40,000 new cases. Included in this figure, naturally, are all the cases that are the result of this viral infection, but are not recorded since in many cases the infection passes in a cryptic way without clinical involvement. Persons who have such a subclinical infection then become carriers of the virus. These people frequently recover, develop resistance, and are protected against the virus; some of them, however, develop a chronic form of this illness.

[Question] But they also contaminate their surroundings.

[Answer] Yes, both those ill with acute hepatitis B and those chronically ill with hepatitis B, as well as carriers of the virus--these are the people who infect the environment in which they live.

[Question] The vaccine that you developed protects against infection with hepatitis B virus. Are there any other viruses that cause hepatitis?

[Answer] Yes, hepatitis A. But this is not as dangerous. Virus A can be picked up through the alimentary path, but virus B can enter through any path, therefore also through the alimentary path, through a wound, a scratch, frequently in a beauty shop or through a manicurist. Also through sexual intercourse with an infected individual. In other words, to a degree, this is a venereal disease.

[Question] What is the vaccine made of?

[Answer] We register carriers of the virus who have a large amount of viral material in their serum, we take serum from them and from this we isolate viral particles. We prepare them properly and administer the antigen we obtain to patients. The immune system of an individual who gets the antigen manufactures antibodies that go into circulation, and if an infectious particle enters the organism, these specific antibodies, acting on the areola of the virus, destroy it. All this depends on the memory of the immune system. The cells of the central nervous system and the immune system can record facts, memorize them, and always retain the memory.

[Question] If we vaccinate an individual once, will he be immune to the virus for the rest of his life?

[Answer] At this time it is difficult to say with certainty. This vaccine has been observed for only 5 years.

[Question] Have clinical studies been made with this vaccine?

[Answer] Yes, we did clinical studies with volunteers from the Military Medical Academy in Lodz. These studies are almost finished.

[Question] And why were studies made with volunteers?

[Answer] Usually the first studies are made with volunteers. It seems to me that in the future the vaccine should also be only for volunteers. The community must simply be informed and convinced that vaccination is effective and important in a person's life.

[Question] How was the effectiveness of the vaccine established after the studies at the Military Medical Academy?

[Answer] The effectiveness of the vaccine is being evaluated by studies of so-called seroconversion, or the appearance of such changes in the serum that are a specific expression of the development of immunity. Volunteers who underwent seroconversion have antibodies that act on the areola of hepatitis B virus. The results of the studies exceeded our expectations. After three injections, 83.5 percent conversion was attained. None of us thought that the small amount of antigen that was injected would result in such a high rate of seroconversion. The results of the studies were submitted to the State Institute of Hygiene. This is what the evaluation says about the material studied: it is safe for

human use, nontoxic, and acts specifically. It is true that earlier the consulting unit expressed doubt about the effectiveness of this vaccine, its so-called immunogenic power. These reservations were the result of using the vaccine on mice. The fact should have been taken into consideration that mice because of their genetic makeup are not the best model for studying the effectiveness of vaccine to counteract viral hepatitis. It is universally recognized that victims of viral hepatitis are primates, including man, and not mice. Therefore it is difficult to imagine that the response of the mouse organism to this antigen, if there is a response at all, would be comparable to the response that the human organism might make. I think that proving the effectiveness of the vaccine with several hundred volunteers will dispel all doubt.

[Question] Could you compare the effectiveness of the Polish vaccine with that of the American and the French?

[Answer] Those reach a similar level of seroconversion, but only with a much greater amount of antigen.

[Question] What kind of formalities must still be taken care of before the vaccine will see the light of day, before it can be widely used? Have steps already been taken to register the vaccine?

[Answer] The registration procedure will require several years. Probably after three introductory series which will be approved by the Medications Commission, or in our case, by the Epidemiology Commission, the vaccine will be submitted to a series of three clinical studies, and we will present the results of these studies to these commissions. I believe that these studies should be done with so-called high-risk groups, that is, in the health service. All doctors, nurses and auxiliary personnel in the health service should be vaccinated since they are most exposed to infection. Next we should vaccinate families of carriers and individuals ill with virus hepatitis.

[Question] What was the atmosphere in which this new vaccine was created?

[Answer] At first everyone was asking if my colleagues and I vaccinated ourselves. Yes. I vaccinated myself; so did my colleagues as did some personnel from other centers of the health service. We have worked for so many years and put so much work and thought into making the preparation that we are developing safe and not infectious. On the other hand, the health service actually does infect individuals with its slovenliness by operating with implements that are improperly sterilized and prepared. This is a great problem. If you were to talk to physicians, you would find that as much as 50 percent of infections are caused by the health service. It is a shame to say it, but it is very bad not to speak of it. If we were to speak of it, then people submitting to all kinds of operations would pay careful attention at least to whether the syringe and needle are properly prepared, to whether the nurse is administering the injection properly, and so forth.

[Question] Returning to the matter of the vaccine, in an interview with Dr Mark Dabrowski, I learned that with vaccines there is always a certain danger to the individual vaccinated. How would you evaluate the hepatitis vaccine? Can it also destroy the lymphatic system?

[Answer] It seems to me that Dr Dabrowski was referring to vaccines that are on the market and are antiviral vaccines. These are so-called live vaccines that introduce virus particles into the system; these particles are infectious, but are sufficiently "tempered" with respect to disease activity. But as far as our vaccine is concerned, it is a "better quality" vaccine. It is not the whole virus particle, but only the fragment that carries the antigen traits. By injecting the antigen, we make the organism produce antibodies. These are the vaccines of the future. Is the hepatitis B vaccine a vaccine of a higher order compared to the live virus vaccines? I heard at the last epidemiological conference that thought is already being given to vaccines against mumps and German measles.

[Question] Who in your opinion should undertake the production of hepatitis vaccine? Thus far it has been produced by the Department of Immunopathology, but most likely production on a larger scale is not feasible here.

[Answer] Yes, we produced it in the department, but in the future we will have to produce it elsewhere. It is a very specific production that requires close cooperation with the activity of the health service. For this we need a clinic where blood of virus carriers could be collected. From the standpoint of contagion, this should be a free-standing pavilion. There must be rapid transmission from the laboratory to the production point, and this is so dramatically complicated that it seems almost impossible under our circumstances. I thought to locate production in a Polish colony considering that in the immediate future it will be difficult to count on new funds. We must find a lawyer who could see the matter through, and the Medical Academy doesn't have the funds for this.

[Question] Is Poland the only country interested in this vaccine?

[Answer] There are countries in which a third of the population are carriers of the virus. These are mainly Third World countries. Initiating and developing production of the vaccine on a wide scale is not only enormously important for our country, but we would be able to export it. I want to bring the matter of this vaccine to a close, and it seems to me that I am approaching this goal.

[Interviewer] Thank you for the interview.

2950

CSO: 5400/3009

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION DESCRIBED

Improvement in Epidemiological Situation

Poznan GAZETA POZNANSKA in Polish 23 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Infectious Diseases in 1982: Further Improvement of the Epidemiological Situation"]

[Text] Warsaw (PAP): Initial data issued by the Ministry of Health and Social Security show that the past year witnessed further improvement of the epidemiological situation in the country. For instance, there was a decisive drop in the incidence of measles—7,600 cases compared to 35,000 in 1981. The lowest annual incidence of typhoid fever was registered (nine cases), as well as of paratyphoid (five cases); there were as many instances of classical typhus. In 1982, no single case of diphtheria or cholera was registered.

Despite the increase in absolute numbers of whooping cough cases, compared to other nations the epidemiological situation with this disease is not bad. During the past decade, 124 cases were registered, but in 1978-82 period there were only 17. Within the same five-year period, there was a drop in scabies from more than 118,000 to 44,000 in the past year.

At the same time, 1982 witnessed a considerable growth in Poland of the number of viral inflammations of cerebral and spinal membranes. The growth was first recorded in Wroclaw, followed by Torun Voivoidship, and by the end of the year encompassed 29 voivoidships. The highest incidence was observed in Tarnow, Torun and Nowy Sad, as well as Krakow and Czestochowa Voivoidships. At the same time, in provinces such as Pila, Leszczyn and Lomza, the number of cases of this disease was low.

There was a 5 percent growth (compared with 1981) of so-called viral hepatitis. Yet, over the past five years, the situation with this disease has generally improved. In 1978-82, there was a drop of more than 122,000 cases compared to the five-year period between 1973 and 1977. The highest figures were observed in Radom, Siedlece, Ciechanowa, Lomza and Wroclaw Provinces.

Combating Tuberculosis

Katowice TRYBUNA ROBOTNICZA in Polish 2 Mar 83 p 5

[Article by (ew.): "The Fight Against Tuberculosis"]

[Text] The problem concerned as many as 4 million individuals in Poland suffering from the so-called nonspecific lung diseases, such as bronchial asthma, inflammations of the respiratory tract and others, including lung tuberculosis, which now has a national incidence of 24,000 new cases yearly, half in the open form. Successes scored in tuberculosis epidemiology during the years of fierce fighting against this dreadful social disease that had as many as 700,000 victims after the war are doubtless. But lately, because of shortages of the medical base and specialized personnel and a reduction of services (especially radio-photographic investigation), there has been a notable rise in the new instances of tuberculosis, mainly among people of productive age. As a result, Poland has climbed to near the top in Europe in occurrence of tuberculosis: 77 cases per 100,000 population. In 75 percent of cases, tuberculosis attacks men.

In this situation, a Social Committee for Combating Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases has been set up, mainly on the initiative of volunteer physicians. On Thursday, 24 Feb 1983, it held a meeting to discuss the trends in activity and personnel training, increasing the anti-tuberculosis medical facilities, calling the attention of people's councils, administrations and health ministries to this problem, and stressed the need for health education and preventive medicine. The leadership of the committee was also elected. Katowice deputy province chief, Jozef Piszczak, was elected committee president, and Dr. Ryszard Szeferowicz the first vice-president. Physicians from Bielsk-Biala, which has common medical facilities with Katowice, have also been elected to the board.

Mass Outbreak of Respiratory Infection

Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 26 Jul 83 p 1

[Report of the PAP: "Mass Infectious Outbreak in Warta Tourist Center in Mierzyn"]

[Text] At Mierzyn vacation resort of the Gorzow Warta Tourist Enterprises, Mielzychod District (Gorzow Voivodship), a massive outbreak of respiratory infection has occurred among some 2,000 vacationing there. The typical symptoms of the disease resemble tonsillitis. Thus far (until 25 Jul 1983), over 400 persons have become sick with this disease, which they fortunately contracted in a light or very light form. Only six individuals (who also had other conditions) had to be hospitalized.

On the premises of the resort, an outpatient clinic treatment center has been organized, staffed by two full-time physicians and nurses. The disease is declining, and the number of new cases has been falling off.

To eliminate all possible sources of the infection (which has not been identified as of yet), the water supply has been shut off, and the center's kitchen has been closed. Bacteriologic investigations thus far, however, have failed to reveal any close connection of the infection outbreak with the sanitary condition of the water or food. Investigations continue.

9922
CSO: 5400/3008

INCREASE IN MALARIA CASES REPORTED

Honiara SOLOMON STAR in English 19 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

The number of new malaria cases in the Western Province for the first six months of 1983 represented an increase of 48 percent over the previous six months.

There were 3,046 positive new cases of the disease reported between January and June of this year. This compares with 2,065 during the last six months of 1982.

However, the largest recent six-month total was the first six months of 1982 when 4,806 cases were reported.

About 25 percent of the reported cases were falciparum malaria, the more serious of the two which occur in Solomon Islands.

Malaria officials at Gizo Hospital said the worst areas for malaria outbreaks in the past few months are Marovo, especially between Sasagana and Batuna, Vella Lavella from Irigila to Dovele and Choiseul Bay Provincial Secondary School.

Budget cuts in the malaria programme have left Choiseul with only three technicians and Marovo with only two. These are the workers who take blood, supervise spraying, and give out treatment.

Longtime malaria workers recall that as late as the mid-seventies malaria was very uncommon, nearly having been eradicated in the West.

However, it has come back very strongly. In March

1982, for instance, 1,082 cases were reported - the first time on record that more than 1,000 cases were reported in a single month.

Usually, technicians will be called to an area when a very serious outbreak is reported. Such a case happened recently at the Choiseul Bay School, which is surrounded by bomb craters left from the Second World War. These holes provide a perfect breeding place for mosquitoes and how the students live - sleeping close to each other in unscreened bunks. Technicians recently sprayed the bomb holes to kill baby mosquitoes.

Following is a table of the statistics. "V" means Vivax and "F" falciparum.

Second Half, 1982				First Half, 1983			
Month	V	F	Total	Month	V	F	Total
July	467	182	649	January	217	81	298
August	330	81	411	February	338	142	480
September	237	44	281	March	407	153	560
October	249	43	292	April	468	140	608
November	209	32	241	May	387	121	508
December	142	49	191	June	479	113	592
Total	1634	431	2065	Total	2296	750	3046

CSG: 5400/4475

RESEARCHER: AIDS MAY BE TIED TO KNOWN LEUKEMIA VIRUS

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 20 Aug 83 p 10

[Article by Ole Mathismoen: "AIDS--a Result of the Sexual Revolution"]

[Excerpts] Stockholm in August. The so-called sexual revolution is getting the blame for the fact that sexual diseases are rampant over the entire world. Gonorrhea and herpes are on the way to becoming sheer "public diseases." In the 60's the opinion was prevalent that antibiotics and other wonder medicines would put an end to these diseases for good. This theory, however, was wrong. And although AIDS cannot be called a purely sexual disease, it can be spread through sexual intercourse. The infection spreads in step with an unbridled sex life with many partners, especially among homosexual men.

AIDS has recently claimed its first death victim in Sweden. Previously the disease has taken four Danish lives. This means that five of the approximately 20 Scandinavian men who have received an AIDS diagnosis are dead. The figure in all probability will increase in the time to come. It is only a question of time of when the number of AIDS victims increases. In the USA the figure doubles every six months.

"But there is no reason to overdramatize the situation. AIDS cannot strike any person whatsoever. It is probably necessary to be specially disposed for the infection to break out. This relates to begin with to people with a reduced immunity defense in their bodies," says Bergen Doctor of Medicine Geo von Krogh. He is a doctor at Söder Hospital in Stockholm and is participating in a Swedish group which has thrown itself into the fight against the strange and feared disease.

"I am beginning to believe that an already known leukemia virus has something to do with the AIDS mystery. This is a very common virus in certain parts of the world. Many people come in contact with it. Against this background I envision a disease development in three phases. One becomes infected with the virus but it does not break out. Point two can be that one becomes infected and gets symptoms, but that it all passes over. In both these cases one becomes immune. But without doubt it is possible to have acted as a carrier of the disease in these situations. When it is a question of the third phase it can be called AIDS. One becomes seriously ill and a diagnosis

can be made. If this virus has something to do with the matter, this strengthens the theory that people whose immunity has already been weakened are susceptible."

So all can be infected with AIDS?

"No, absolutely not. As was said, one must be disposed to it. I would like to suppress the panicky AIDS fear which has spread."

"The Western world has known the AIDS syndrome for only a few years. Where it comes from is a mystery, but there is much to indicate that Central Africa and the Caribbean Islands can be possible places of origin. The contagion has probably circulated for a long time, since it appears that the incubation time is very long. It can take anywhere from three months to four years before the infection eventually breaks out. In addition, researchers have worked with theories that the AIDS virus can be inherited."

Can one become infected by touching an AIDS patient?

"No! The infection can be transmitted only through very intimate sexual contact or through direct blood transfusion. Hemophiliacs and intravenous drug abusers come into the spotlight with regard to the last-named factor. As far as transmission through sexual contact is concerned, this happens mainly among homosexual men."

Vaccinate All Homosexual Men

"I urge the health authorities in Norway and Sweden to undertake vaccination of homosexual men. This as a link in the fight against sexual diseases in general, but it can also help against AIDS. It is the vaccine against hepatitis B (jaundice) I am thinking of. It strengthens the power of resistance in the body and can therefore have a preventive effect on possible AIDS infection," says Doctor Geo von Krogh.

In addition, he urges all homosexuals to go to the doctor for regular checkups. This should be free of charge so that we can bring forth and help the susceptible group, he says.

Fight Against Unknown Virus

Copenhagen in August. In the middle of September Europe's first AIDS congress is being held in Århus in Denmark. Doctors and experts from most European countries are gathering to discuss this problem. It is the Cancer Research Institute in Århus which is arranging the congress in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO).

The director of the institute, Doctor Peter Ebbesen, says that everything must be brought into action in the fight against AIDS.

"The disease to be sure has a small scope in relation to other diseases, like cancer, for example, but we know little about how quickly and to what

extent it can spread. It is therefore important that we find as quickly as possible the possible AIDS virus and that we can get a general idea of the situation in Europe. There is, you see, no automatic report service here, as the case is in the USA. A report service is important in order to get a general idea of the spread, how the disease comes into being, among whom and to what extent."

He hopes also that special appropriations will be earmarked in health budgets around the countries in Europe.

"We need both time and money in order to get to the bottom of the mystery," he says.

Ebbesen relates that many doctors are noncommitted. Only a minority has up to now gone actively into AIDS research.

"It is as though the complete gravity of the matter is not seen. Physicians with epidemiology as their special field react more quickly. They look at the steadily growing curve and know that more cases are coming. At best the curve can flatten out, but first we must find out what AIDS is," he says.

Accordingly, physicians will chart the situation in Europe at the congress in Århus. Then they must attempt to bring forth the symptoms AIDS gives.

"It is a question of finding common warning signs so that a physician can get a chance at treatment as early as possible. Finally, they must prepare a report for WHO in which possible measures against the further spreading of AIDS can be proposed. An attempt must also be made to form a special work group which can work continuously on the AIDS problem," Ebbesen says.

Steam Bath Clubs in Limelight: Swapping Partners Increases Danger of AIDS

Stockholm in August. Stockholm's three homosexual steam bath clubs are in the limelight. Many think that the clubs should be closed. It appears, you see, that the danger of being infected with AIDS is especially great if one visits these places. In dark rooms and steam baths swapping of partners takes place among homosexual men on a grand scale. It costs 45 kroner for admission and then it is up to the visitors to do as they wish. Word has it that they are sheer sex clubs.

Swedish doctors expect that many homosexuals are in the danger area--many can already have been infected. But it can take up to four years before the disease breaks out.

Physician Geo von Krogh does not think that the clubs will be closed, but he urges all homosexuals to limit the number of sex partners to a minimum.

"If these places are closed this group of homosexuals will find other places to meet. No one will gain anything by their being 'chased' out into the bushes again, as the situation was 10 or 20 years ago," he says.

It is obvious that Stockholm's homosexuals have taken von Krogh's urging seriously. The clubs are poorly attended during the day. But whether this is only a temporary reaction to the fact that the first Swedish AIDS patient died last Friday or whether it is a lasting phenomenon will remain unsaid.

Matz--a 20-year-old guy who works in the "Gay Kino [Cinema]" steam bath club--is afraid neither of the visitor count nor of AIDS.

"People come back. They are afraid for a moment but then everything is forgotten. The chances of getting AIDS are small; one has to be fairly sickly to get the disease," he believes.

Matz works in the club's lobby. He collects the admission fees and sells various articles which adorn the shelves behind him. What takes place in the steam baths, the shower or in the "dark rooms" does not concern him. "This is a legal racket where people can do as they wish. We are running far from a bordello," he says.

Kjell Rindar is the leader of the National Alliance for Sexual Equality (RFSL). "No hysterical or panicky mood prevails among us, but we are totally powerless. AIDS is for us like a big question mark. The community must bring everything into action in order to solve the mystery. It is not a problem which concerns just us homosexuals. But unbelievably little is happening. Just because we are homosexuals we must ourselves take the initiative. It is a matter which concerns all of Sweden--and the whole world, for that matter," he says.

8985

CSO: 5400/2576

ISTANBUL RESPONDS TO THREAT, FEAR OVER RABIES

Istanbul CUMHURİYET in Turkish 9 Aug 83 pp 1, 11

It has been learned that 9,150 people were bitten by animals in the last 6 months in Istanbul and rushed to "rabies stations" for treatment. Health Directorate officials disclosed that in Istanbul there are rabies stations in Yalova, Kartal, Eyup and Cemberlitas, that these stations are on duty 24 hours a day and that new stations will soon be opened in Sile and Kadikoy in the face of the mounting number of cases. Health Directorate officials dismissed the rabies diagnosis for a cow in Kemerburgaz as "an incident which need not be exaggerated" and said that rabies is a countrywide problem for Turkey and that the Istanbul municipality's campaign against stray dogs is inadequate. The officials also cautioned citizens not to be immunized unnecessarily.

Following the death of a Holstein-type cow in Kemerburgaz and the diagnosis by officials of the Veterinary Directorate to the effect that the cow had rabies, all animals in the area were quarantined for 6 months. Officials of the Veterinary Directorate reported that the vaccination of all animals in Kemerburgaz and surrounding villages is continuing, that all dogs entering and leaving the district are being inspected and that so far 30 unclaimed dogs have been put to death.

Noting that dogs and cats in particular are prone to contracting rabies, Veterinary Directorate officials stressed the need to prevent the multiplication of stray animals and said: "Those who have dogs or cats as pets must register their animals with municipalities in districts and with village heads in villages. However, for some reason, people have their animals vaccinated for rabies not regularly but when there is an outbreak of rabies, and that is too late." Stating that the Ministry of Health has so far not built an animal hospital, Veterinary Directorate officials said that they are treating animals in a hospital they have set up with their own means.

Health Directorate officials said that the "Kemerburgaz case is an incident that need not be exaggerated" and added:

"Following the incident, our organization moved its vaccination station to Kemerburgaz as a precautionary measure in order to calm down panicky citizens, to prevent citizens from being vaccinated needlessly and to insure that those who need vaccination are vaccinated. This is why the Health Directorate entered the scene. This incident should not be exaggerated too much. Today, rabies cases are encountered in virtually all provinces of Turkey."

Health Directorate officials also disclosed that Istanbul Municipality's efforts are not effective in destroying stray dogs and said:

"The Municipality has reported to us that 40 to 50 dogs are destroyed every day. Why are dogs being destroyed every day, why have they not been completely exterminated? Unclaimed and unvaccinated dogs and their mammals must be destroyed to preserve the health of the human. One cannot remain indifferent to the recent spate of animal deaths resulting from rabies."

Emphasizing that we cannot get rid of rabies as long as stray dogs are not completely exterminated, Health Directorate officials reported that 30 to 40 such incidents are encountered every year. The officials said:

"For this reason we have too many vaccinations. The people have become more susceptible on this issue, but many people are still vaccinated unnecessarily. This must be stopped because vaccination may have side effects. Our rabies stations are on duty 24 hours a day. We have rabies stations in Fulyova, Kartal, Eyup and Cemberlitas. Soon, we will open new stations in Silivri and Kadikoy. That way the people will have easier access to these stations. However, we must stop unnecessary vaccinations."

Meanwhile, Dr. Yuksel Ozman, the head physician at the Cemberlitas Rabies Station, said that rabies bacteria are most commonly found on mammals and that anyone who gets bitten by a mammal must immediately seek medical help. Dr. Ozman said:

"Those who have been vaccinated for rabies must avoid the wind, the sun and cold. We would like to emphasize that the municipality must work effectively to destroy stray dogs, a very serious disease."

Municipality officials

Municipality officials said that the city's dog impoundment crews are working around the clock under 23 separate branch directorates and that besides their scheduled work they respond to complaints from citizens. Municipality officials disclosed that in addition to these teams three motorized teams are working on the European and Anatolian sides of Istanbul.

It was also learned that the mayor of Istanbul will make a statement in the next few days on the recent spate of rabies incidents in the city.

Meanwhile, Professor Ekrem Kadri Unat, Chairman of the Microbiology Department of the Istanbul School of Medicine, said that there is very little likelihood of contracting rabies through meat and milk. Stating that cooking kills the bacteria, Unat said: "The citizens must be warned not to eat and drink raw meat and milk."

Adding that if an animal bites a human up to 15 days before it goes rabid it is unlikely that the human would contract rabies, Professor Unat said that in Turkey the observation period for rabies is 10 days and that it is possible to determine whether a human has contracted rabies within this period of time.

According to Turhan Kentoglu, a permanent member of the Animal Protection Society, said that the practice of destroying stray animals has been taken to extremes and added:

"What does the Minister of Health mean when he says that the people should look after them on the issue of stray dogs? He obviously does not mean that all animals should be killed. However, such statements are being misinterpreted by the people. Children have begun killing animals. They put them in bags and throw them in the sea. There has been a surge of virtual enmity against animals. Tourists have complained to us about this savagery. We do not know what to do. No one pays attention to our proposals. It is a pity these animals are being killed. Touristic installations have reportedly been authorized to kill stray animals around them. Where--in what European country--has such a thing been done?"

Turhan Kentoglu.

Deputy Mayor Abdullah Tirtil said that crews formed to destroy stray dogs are working on a round-the-clock basis. Noting that these crews have encountered resistance from certain citizens while doing their work, Tirtil asked the people to cooperate with them and said that citizens can report their complaints on this issue to the Office of the Deputy Mayor, the Municipality Watchman Superintendent and the Sanitary Affairs Directorate.

1 : 9/15/77

WHO REPORTS 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN MALARIA INCIDENCE 1972-1982

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 1 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

THERE was an increase of 50 per cent in the number of malaria cases treated at Zambia's health institutions during the ten-year period up to 1981, the World Health Organisation has reported.

And the number of such patients admitted for treatment rose from 63,235 in 1972 to 83,773 in 1981.

This grim picture was painted in Lusaka by WHO representative in Zambia Dr Wedson Mwambazi when he opened a malaria workshop organised by the Ministry of Health at the Natural Resources Development College (NRDC) yesterday.

Speaking on the theme "WHO in the history of malaria eradication", Dr Mwambazi said:

"Before I tackle the theme, I wish to restate what I have said once before — that the problem of malaria in Zambia is an agonising one."

The reasons for the "apparent dismal failure" in the fight against malaria in Zambia were complex but Dr Mwambazi said he did not share the view that the Ministry of Health alone was responsible for the eradication of the disease.

He told the workshop comprising health workers of all categories that figures available at the ministry "on the

malaria problem spoke for themselves".

During the ten-year period 1972-82 there was a 50 per cent increase in the total number of malaria cases seen at health institutions.

"Moreover, the number of in-patients or admissions increased from 63,235 malaria cases in 1972 to 83,773 in 1981, representing a 40 per cent rise."

Dr Mwambazi said malaria had "persistently" remained one of the top five causes of hospitalisation in Zambia.

The disease's eradication programme offered good prospects for the Primary Health Care (PHC) development for in it, all the eight elements of the PHC were entirely practical.

And as the economic conditions in the country were becoming more restrictive, environmental mosquito control activities by various State organs and agencies had not only slowed down, but considerably diminished.

ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

SOUTHERN PROVINCE MENINGITIS OUTBREAK--THERE is an outbreak of meningitis in Mazabuka, Southern Province permanent secretary Mr Pensulo Phiri said in Livingstone yesterday. Six cases had been reported to health institutions and all victims were residents of the Nakambalan Sugar Estates' sprawling cane cutters' township. Mr Phiri said the township was overcrowded and this could have contributed to the outbreak of the disease. Doctors were working round the clock to stop the disease from spreading to other areas. But the provincial medical officer Dr Satya Prakash informed him there was no cause for alarm. [Text] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 31 Aug 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/332

BRIEFS

MEASLES KILLS THREE MORE--Seke District Council has sent a team of health assistants and nurses to Chamunorwa village after three children died from measles last week. The District Administrator, Cde Chris Pasipamire, said at the weekend that the three children were of members of the Apostolic faith. The teams had been sent to immunise all the children in the area to prevent the disease from spreading. The disease recently claimed the lives of three children in Manicaland. Cde Pasipamire said the sect members were still not prepared to let the children to be immunised despite the three deaths in two days. One of the members of the sect who lost his children after contracting measles, Mr John Mahungo, said he would continue to observe the sect's ruling against sending members for medical treatment. The Government, he said, had not seen anything improper about the sect and that was an acknowledgement of the validity of the beliefs of the Apostolic faith's grouping. Cde Pasipamire said yesterday he had approached Seke east councillors and local Zanu (PF) officials and urged them to persuade members of the sect to take their children for medical treatment. Nine-year-old Shelter Mahungo was blinded by measles in one eye but her mother, Mrs Esther Mahungo, said she would continue to treat any sicknesses in the family by water--the sect's panacea for all the members' health problems. [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 25 Jul 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/324

MEASURES ADOPTED TO PREVENT SPREAD OF SWINE FEVER

Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 16 Jul 83 p 6

[Text] Agents from the Departmental Headquarters for livestock of the Ministry of Farming and Cattle Affairs, informs that they have detected cases of cholera in pigs, particularly in some farms that operate in the neighboring locale of Quillacollo, a disease which, if it spreads, could mean serious economic harm to ranchers or to the health of those consuming pork.

It was pointed out that, in light of these facts, the livestock office of MACA has mobilized the personnel of veterinarians, whose primary task will consist of the adoption of preventive measures essentially to avoid dissemination of the cholera.

Likewise, it is suggested to all ranchers that devote themselves to raising swine, to avoid the purchase or introduction of pigs of questionable origin to their ranches and not to rely on health certificates or those having been in contact with sick animals.

People who have litters should refrain from visiting swine farms where this infection is suspect to arrange for a vaccination or revaccination of animals over 3 months old, with the usage of well-known vaccinations and qualified by organisms of prevention for animal health.

Ranchers should consult a veterinarian, as soon as possible, in regard to the health of their animals, by making an immediate check.

The presence of sick or suspicious animals that might be infected with the cholera should be reported to the livestock office in order to adopt proper prevention, inasmuch as there is a risk of spreading the disease with negative consequences, since according to all professional reports, this ailment is fatal in 80 percent of the swine. And, if the recommendations that were sent out are not adhered to, not only could it entail economic loss, but a risk to public health as well.

12445

CSO: 5400/2111

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE--Colombian Agriculture Minister Gustavo Castro Guerrero has announced a "fight to death" against the foot and mouth disease, which has rendered health conditions in Sabana de Bogota "extremely critical." The disease has been reported in at least 40 areas of Funza, Mosquera, and Sopo. Government organizations will launch a nationwide inspection campaign, and the country has been divided into 10 zones for a vaccination program. [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Aug 83 p 13-A PA]

CSO: 5400/2131

MEASURES AGAINST SWINE FEVER DETAILED, CRITICIZED

Bonn DIE WELT in German 19 Jul 83 p 14

[Text] DPA Muenster. The sow looks healthy. Immediately after slaughter and examination of the meat, the government animal inspector stamps "approved" on the half pig carcass. But right beside it he stamps a large "S". The animal comes from a herd affected by swine fever. Although the meat may be infected with the virus of this animal infection which is not dangerous to man but highly contagious to pigs, it may be marketed in cans, well-cooked.

This year about 58,000 pigs in the North-Rhine Westphalian bezirk of Muenster have died of the fever or had to be slaughtered in order to eradicate affected herds. It has not been possible thus far to control the fever, which runs its course in individual cases without typical symptoms and leads to the death of the fattening animals. In the face of the mediocre results in fighting the epidemic, there has been rising criticism of the measures legally prescribed in the "Swine Fever Ordinance".

The prescribed procedures in eliminating infected pig herds are met with lack of understanding particularly among administration and veterinarians. As soon as swine fever is determined to exist in a hog-fattening enterprise, the animals are brought to the slaughterhouse and there divided into various "classes of acceptability." The meat of sick animals is destroyed.

Clear Criticism

The meat of not noticeably ill, but perhaps already infected pigs is delivered to 6 meat canning plants in Gelsenkirchen, Warendorf, Bottrop and Erkenschwick. But kitchen garbage from large kitchens and canteens, possibly with remains of this meat, often ends up as hog feed again in hog-fattening installations. The pigs fed with it pick up the dangerous virus again--an endless cycle.

The Steinfurt district administration in the northern Muensterland is among the most forthright critics of this procedure. The cleanest way, say the veterinarians of the district administration, would be the direct elimination of the affected herds by the animal carcass evaluation installations. The danger of transmission by infected cattle transport cars would thereby be

the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which is the only body that can issue such orders.

There is a law...

The procedure, which in the view of the concerned people is an "irreparable" one between official slaughter and further transmission, is established by law. Finally, it is paid in money to the state. The proceeds of the sale of the slaughtered meat goes to the province as compensation for the damage paid to the affected farmers for their loss. But the animal disease fund of the Westphalia-Lippe Agricultural Association in Münster, which pays out the damages, calculates it differently. Both the Westphalia-Lippe Agricultural Association and one of the regional branches of the Imperial government. In the case of the fund, the paid about 4.1 million marks for about 18,000 pigs killed due to the disease of swine fever, and further millions were to have been demanded by the farmers. The more swine fever cases are reported, the lower the profit from the slaughter proceeds compared with the damage payments.

Under the long run it would be considerably cheaper, says the agricultural association, if the animals were eliminated in the animal carcass evaluation station. But a further transmission of the fever costs more money than the profit coming from the slaughter. The animal disease fund remembers well the swine fever epidemic of 1876. At that time the agricultural association had to pay out about 18 million marks in damages.

There is a law...

SWINE FEVER INFECTS 3,000 PIGS IN REGGIO EMILIA

Milan IL GIORNO in Italian 21 Aug 83 p 6

[Article by Massimo Torelli]

[Text] Reggio Emilia, 21 Aug--The swine capital is in a state of alarm. Swine fever has arrived. Late yesterday afternoon, almost 3,000 pigs were incinerated and buried in an enormous ditch filled with quicklime. "It is the classic swine fever," says Dr Perini, deputy director of Reggio Emilia's animal preventive-treatment institute. Therefore, it has nothing to do with the more dangerous African swine fever reported in spring in some of Pavia areas. "There is a state of alarm," it was said, "inasmuch as the Reggio Emilia breeders are afraid that the center of infection discovered in Cavriago, about 10 km from Reggio, 8,000 residents, 8,000 swine in various barns, might lead to a general epidemic which would result in incalculable harm to the provincial economy."

In fact, Reggio is the richest Italian province in stock breeding: 1,200,000 pigs intended for slaughtering, and largely for export.

Swine fever was discovered at the beginning of the week. The proprietor of the biggest swine-breeding farm in Cavriago, almost 3,000 head, conveyed his suspicions to a relative, a veterinarian in a mountain village. The latter immediately informed the director of the animal preventive-treatment institute who hastened to the "suspected" barn.

High fever, as much as 41 degrees C., diarrhetic stool, some of the pigs in a state of total prostration; all of these factors convinced Dr Perini of the seriousness of the situation which subsequent analysis, made in Brescia, confirmed.

Cavriago is now in a state of siege. An imposing sanitary cordon has been set up; no one can get near the place where, yesterday afternoon, almost 3,000 head were first slaughtered and then incinerated after exceptional security measures were taken to avoid pollution and fires.

Toward 1700 hours, the enormous fire was lit; a mountain of old tarpaulins was scattered among the swine, and the whole pile was then sprayed with 100 quintals of gasoline. A column of black smoke, visible at several kilometers distance, was the signal for many other breeders of the province who, in spring, host an international swine exposition and who, at the beginning of the year, saw an opportunity for success, "healthy swine," everything hinging on breeding, slaughtering and marketing swine. In fact, pigs were studied as a vehicle of culture in the flourishing literature surrounding this animal.

According to the veterinarians, the responsibility for the center of infection can be imputed to a few head, probably already infected at time of import. In the Netherlands swine fever has been a scourge for the swine-breeding sector for months. This epidemic again brings up the question of vaccination, which is mandatory only in Italy.

Ennio Franceschetti, a major breeder, will receive an indemnity of a little less than 400 million lire; his barn is to be disinfected and some of the construction replaced. Streams of chlorine have already been put into the purifiers to avoid the risk of having the contagion spread to other stock farms. However, despite the assurances of the experts, the disease is a nightmare for an entire province.

8568

CSO: 5400/2578

MALAYSIA DECLARED FREE OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 21 Jul 83 p 5

[Text] Dr Goh Cheng Teik, deputy minister of agriculture, announced today that all of Malaysia is now free of foot-and-mouth disease.

Dr Goh made the announcement immediately after paying a visit to the Veterinary Research Institute, Ipoh and discussing the matter with the institute's chief supervisor, Dr Neo Yee Keang; Dr Datuk Osmantin, national chief veterinary inspector; and Dr Abdul Rahman, the Vaccine Research Institute's chief supervisor.

He announced the government is satisfied that foot-and-mouth disease in Western Malaysia has been completely placed under control, because not a single case of the disease has occurred since July 1981.

Now all hogs may be freely transported from state to state within the Western Malaysian region without prior government permission, unlike the situation in the past.

However, Deputy Minister Goh strongly persuaded hog breeders to have their livestock injected with foot-and-mouth vaccine.

"We are gratified to learn that most of the hogs in large farms have been vaccinated and we urge small hog breeders to do likewise."

He said that although the country has been declared free of foot-and-mouth disease, hog breeders should not feel complacent but should make sure that every hog must be safeguarded against infection by vaccination, otherwise the epidemic might come back, just as a rotten apple can spoil an entire bushel.

It may be recalled that the years of 1980 and 1981 represented dark days for hog breeders throughout the land, who suffered great losses as a result of the closure of their infected farms.

The Bureau of Veterinary Medicine has made arrangements with the cooperative societies of the National Livestock Industry Federation, whereby the latter may buy the necessary vaccines from the former.

Dr Goh urged hog breeders in the neighboring states of Perak, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Penang to have their hogs vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease as soon as possible.

9300

CSO: 54.00/4455

RINDERPEST VACCINE ARRIVING FROM FAO

Kampala THE PEOPLE in English 25 Jul 83 p 3

[Text] One million doses of rinderpest vaccine and equipment for processing high quality planting seeds have arrived in the country. The two items worth about shs. 110 million have been provided by Food Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Two agreements to provide rinderpest vaccine and equipment to expand the processing plant at Masindi have also been signed in Kampala between the Uganda government and FAO.

The Under Secretary in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development Mr. A. Settende signed on behalf of Uganda government and Mr. John A. Hoskins, FAO Representative to Uganda, did for the agency.

Under the agreement FAO has offered to supply one million doses of rinderpest vaccine as well as vehicles to be used in combating rinderpest that has threatened cattle herds in southern and western Uganda. FAO will also assist in the actual vaccination campaign to begin soon.

In the second agreement, FAO will provide technical assistance, equipment and training for the expansion of seed processing facilities and storage in Masindi area.

About 400 tonnes of maize, sorghum, beans and finger millet will be processed at Masindi and distributed to farmers in the area.

Talking to "The People" Mr. Hoskins said the action programme will start immediately. He revealed that an expert to assist in the programme implementation has already been nominated and will soon arrive in the country.

CSO: 5490/334

BRIEFS

MEASURE TO HALT FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE--Bulawayo. As the foot-and-mouth disease spreads among cattle at the feedlots of the Cold Storage Commission in Bulawayo, a total ban has been imposed on movement of all cloven and hooved livestock in Matabeleland, a spokesman for the Department of Veterinary Services said yesterday. The spokesman said the restriction was authorised by the Animal Health (foot-and-mouth areas) Order of 1981. "Although no further infection has been diagnosed in cattle emanating from within 10 km of Willsgrove feedlots, the disease continues to spread in previously vaccinated cattle within the feedlot. "For this reason it has been considered prudent to enforce a complete ban on movement of all cloven and hooved livestock in the province other than those travelling directly by motor transport for slaughter," the spokesman said. Full co-operation of the police to ensure the enforcement of the ban has been obtained. [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 25 Jul 83 p 1]

MYSTERY CATTLE KILLER IDENTIFIED--The mystery disease killing cattle in Chiweshe reported in yesterday's HERALD is quarter evil, a spokesman for Veterinary Services Department said yesterday. It is a disease caused by a germ which can live in the ground for a number of years and is picked up by cattle, particularly young animals, and causes them to be ill for one day before dying. "The best method of treatment is to vaccinate the cattle, which should be done when they are six months old and again each year. "Government policy is to control the major diseases of animals, particularly the ones that are spread to humans, such as rabies and anthrax. "Because quarter evil is not transmissible to humans, the Government does not supply vaccine but assists in giving advice and, where possible, it helps farmers in administering the vaccine." Communal farmers in Chiweshe complained that they had lost nine head of cattle last month and feared they would lose more. They had a similar outbreak two years ago. An animal that contracts the disease first starts to limp, then the leg rots and the beast dies within 24 to 48 hours. The Veterinary Services Department spokesman said the vaccine was easily available and cost only 5c a shot. [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 2 Aug 83 p 1]

DENMARK

COLORADO BEETLES SPREADING OVER ENTIRE ISLAND OF SJAELLAND

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 3 Aug 83 Sect III p 3

[Article by Ib Christensen]

[Text] Colorado beetles are now virtually falling from the sky over Sjaelland and large quantities of them are washing ashore along the southern coast of Lolland-Falster and Langeland. Yesterday, the State Plant Inspection Board declared that beetles had been found in nearly 40 different locations on Sjaelland. In the last few days, wind has carried swarms of Colorado beetles from GDR and Poland across the Baltic Sea.

As opposed to Southern Jutland, so few of the pests have been found in each location that one can hardly call it an attack. Beetles have only been found in a single potato field, on Torvald Helgesen's farm in Havdrup, south of Roskilde, but here, too, it was only a matter of very few beetles.

The State Plant Inspection Board ordered the field sprayed immediately but, beyond that, it wants to wait and see. Section Chief Henning Andersen maintains that, with the relatively modest potato area on Sjaelland, there is no reason for concern about an attack that might compare with the situation in Southern Jutland.

In most instances, it is people with gardens who have found a single beetle and reported it to the police. Most places, the beetles were found on random plants and on garden chips. The first discoveries on Sjaelland were made last Monday and reports of new findings increased considerably yesterday.

In Copenhagen, one beetle was found on the grounds of the Landscape Association, Rode Mellemvej 105 at Amager, and another at the Middelgrund fort. Other beetles have been found in Karlise, Arnoje, Koge, Hornbak, Olstykke, Stenlose, Li, Heddinge near Stevns, Knudshovet north of Vordingborg, Bistrup and in Stenlose.

The Plant Inspection Board has intensified the watch but, according to Henning Andersen, the situation is not alarming. The beetles arrived too late to complete a normal development cycle and he estimates that the influx of beetles will stop in a couple of weeks.

GUYANA

BRIEFS

VICTORY OVER SMUT DISEASE--Georgetown, Guyana, Monday, (CANA)--Guyana has completely repressed smut, the dreaded sugar cane disease which first attacked and threatened to destroy the vital foreign exchange earnings industry in 1974, the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation has announced. GUYSUCO statement said the disease had been wiped out through "a planned phased removal of highly susceptible varieties" over the last eight years. "The technical personnel attached to GUYSUCO's sugar experiment station are now involved in an apparently successful battle against rust and yellow spot, two of the latest diseases found in the industry," the statement said. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 9 Aug 83 p 3]

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COFFEE BEAN BORER, RUST DESTROYING COFFEE PRODUCTION

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Aug 83 p 13

[Article by Mario Valladares F.]

[Text] The government displays indifference to the problem. The disappearance of the plantations will produce unemployment in rural areas. Uncertain future for 15,000 small coffee growers. This problem is not only one for coffee growers and the government; it is a national problem. The national coffee-growing situation is alarming.

The president of the Honduran Coffee Growers Association (AHPROCAFE), Prof Catarino Montoya, declared yesterday that the Honduran coffee-growing industry is bankrupt because rust is ruining all the coffee growers and up to now the government has displayed indifference to calmly and responsibly dealing with the problem.

The president of the coffee growers association seemed very concerned over the difficult situation and explained that the damage caused by rust and the coffee bean borer is enormous. "We have toured the country in almost all directions and have verified the fact that the coffee will not be harvested in many areas this year because the disease has so greatly affected the plantations that many of them have no production.

According to the data distributed by AHPROCAFE, the damage recorded represents an approximate loss of from 25 to 40 percent of the Honduran coffee crop, obtained from 175,000 manzanas [1 manzana = about 1 and 3/4 acres] cultivated throughout the country.

Prof Catarino Montoya asserted that the places affected by the disease are conspicuous: the areas of Lago de Yojoa, Santa Barbara Department, Comayagua, El Paraiso, La Paz and Copan, and he maintained that to date rust has infected all the coffee plantations in Honduras and that people are beginning to feel the effects it is producing throughout the entire country.

The present situation which the national coffee-growing industry is going through is alarming if we consider the series of consequences it will produce.

"We are of the opinion that the bankruptcy of the small and medium-sized growers will generate enormous problems, especially social problems. This implies that all growers engaging in these activities will have to abandon the coffee-growing areas and go to the cities to lengthen the long lines of misery and promote delinquency," Prof Montoya commented.

The president of AHPROCAFE further explained that the sectors most affected by the disappearance of Honduran coffee plantations as a result of rust and the bean borer are first of all the growers and secondly all Hondurans, because, in ceasing to produce coffee, which has up to now constituted the chief export item in this country, the government will not obtain hard currency and taxes amounting to several million lempiras.

"This urgent appeal we are making to the government is so that it will with great expeditiousness take care of the coffee growers since all Honduran coffee growers are being hurt by the borer and rust and are about to disappear, and the growers will leave those areas and then there will be an uncontrollable crisis. And our country can be fertile soil for the fomenting of subversion since hungry people are capable of anything. We have an example of this with our neighbors, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, which cannot contemplate the peace we have."

The president of AHPROCAFE further said that they had on 16 June 1983 presented the government with a statement in which they pointed out to it the situation the Honduran coffee-growing industry is in and asked it to come up with a well-defined coffee policy and, secondly, "we requested it to make a more scientific analysis of the taxes the government imposes on Honduran coffee growers under the heading of coffee exports. This year, for example, we produced coffee and sold it at prices lower than the cost of production, which in practical terms means that coffee growing is no longer profitable. Now we are forced to ask it to cut our taxes as recently happened in Guatemala."

The assistant manager of AHPROCAFE, agronomist Mauricio Santiago Hernandez, expressed the opinion that coffee growing is about to disappear and this is not only a problem for the coffee growers, but one that concerns all of us who make up Honduran society.

The official just referred to appeared to be somewhat optimistic and said: "We at AHPROCAFE believe that the government ought to work on the design, implementation and execution of policies in the different fields of production, marketing, control of pests and diseases in international quota negotiations and overall improvement of national services for coffee growers."

He also maintained that in this time of crisis the government ought to take all the necessary steps for contributing along with the coffee growers and helping them to control the situation, not by coming up with stopgap measures to be applied when the problem arises, but by defining permanent policies that can be applied to benefit the coffee-growing industry.

Agronomist Hernandez asserted that the drop in coffee production will have an enormous effect on the country's economy since it is the chief export item. He said that the reduction will be even greater for the next period, that is, within a couple of months, because the harvest will already be upon us and losses of hard currency and tax receipts will be big.

Factors Affecting Coffee Production

Among the factors that have had an alarming effect on coffee production the following are conspicuous: the growers' organizational framework and the configuration of the production sector, composed of 40,000 growers, 99 percent of whom are small and medium-sized producers who contribute 75 percent of national production, the rest being big producers.

Another determining factor has to do with production costs and taxes now in effect.

At the present time the production sector is being oppressed with burdens like the following: export taxes on coffee, (\$120) 40 lempiras a quintal; port permits for the IHCAFE (Honduran Coffee Institute), 5 lempiras a quintal; Trade Fund for Qualities (FIC) to finance IHCAFE activities, 5.20 lempiras a quintal; grower's average production cost, 120 lempiras a quintal; price received by the grower, 96 lempiras a quintal; total loss for the producer, 24 lempiras a quintal.

On the other hand, we have been able to verify the fact that, in terms of land area where coffee is grown, over 40,000 manzanas have been destroyed by rust and bean borer attacks. The plantations that have been destroyed belong to small growers who were unable to recoup their losses due to the absence of effective programs and the lack of financing.

The effect rust has on coffee production is enormous and has generated a sequel of problems for all the growers in the different parts of the country.

A large number of small growers are rapidly disappearing, a phenomenon that will be increasingly evident during the next 2 years with the alarming figures of 15,000 or more small coffee growers.

Short-term national production will also drop by about 25 percent, a figure that will gradually rise during the next few years.

According to the data presented by AEPROCAFE, the disappearance of coffee plantations from many parts of the country will produce an increase in rural unemployment among producers as well as all those who directly depend on coffee growing.

Furthermore, the spread of rust on the nation's coffee plantations will have an effect on the national economy when we consider the fact that there will be a reduction of over 112.5 million lempiras [in revenue] as a result of the drop in coffee production and one of from 25 to 40 percent due to rust and the bean borer.

They also think that rust will result in a loss of export duties on the order of 20 million lempiras. This will be evident in the revenue IHCAFE received due to the effect of the reduction in the amounts collected through export permits and FIC.

Brief Historical Review of Coffee Rust

Because of the appearance of coffee rust in Nicaragua in 1976, the Honduran Government created the Anti-Rust Emergency Committee, composed of government institutions and AHPROCAFE.

One of the very first actions the committee carried out was to take appropriate preventive steps to stop that disease. But despite all the efforts they have made, rust has spread throughout all of Central America.

In Honduras they began to come across the disease in 1980, chiefly in the area around Marcala in La Paz Department, and only a few days later it was reported that the disease had spread to the coffee-growing areas of Lago de Yojoa and Santa Barbara in the western part of the country.

Later, in 1981, the decree that created the committee was modified and the National Anti-Rust and Coffee Bean Borer Emergency Program was created, taking into account the incidence of the borer in the northwest.

The program in question was preceded by a board of directors composed of one representative each from the Department of Natural Resources, IHCAFE, Department of Government and Justice, Department of Defense and Public Security and AHPROCAFE, but despite the efforts made through the program, rust spread throughout all the country's production areas.

Later, the administration of the program, which had been managed by a board of directors, in 1982 became the absolute responsibility of IHCAFE. The missions accomplished through the program have included actions coming under the heading of preventive and combative measures, training, information and chemical control. These measures prevail at present and funding has been obtained for them from the Agency for International Development (AID).

Later, that is, after the appearance of rust in 1980 and 1981, several actions to combat the disease were initiated.

A Glance at the Past

It has been proven that Honduran coffee is one of the most important items in our economy and, because it represents an important element in the export sector, it has generated a great deal of hard currency, as well as jobs and services for a considerable portion of both the rural and urban populations.

Statistically speaking, in 1982 the value of our exports came to 307.5 million, thus generating revenue for the government under the heading of taxes in the amount of 43.4 million lempiras. In the harvesting and marketing of the bean, this activity generated jobs for approximately 350,000 Hondurans engaged in

such work and favored families composed of producers, which represented 30 percent of the economically active population.

LA PRENSA went to the town of La Libertad in Comayagua, a coffee-growing area representative of the efforts, activities and problems facing Honduran coffee growers.

In La Libertad (a 100-percent coffee-growing town of 6,000 urban residents with a poor dirt road 42 km long between it and Comayagua):

Next we interviewed well-known coffee growers of the area who expressed their concern over the spread of rust and the bean borer in the area.

Coffee Growers Express Their Opinions.

Ramon Arnold Sabillon (head of the Coffee Growers Cooperative):

"The effects produced by rust and the bean borer on the plantations of the municipality of La Libertad, Comayagua, are enormous, having reached the point where many plantations are already disappearing and the decline in production is beginning to be felt," coffee grower Arnold Sabillon Medrano asserted.

The coffee grower said that the devastating effects rust has produced have generated many problems and the labor force has declined because the plantations no longer create jobs, producing this phenomenon of an emigration of workers to other places.

He also said that rust had produced substantial effects. In almost all the coffee-growing areas owners of small plantations are abandoning them because they cannot combat the diseases due to the lack of financing and because the plantations are already very old and only produce 5 quintals a year.

Arnold Sabillon stuck to his personal opinion as a grower: "We believe that it is advisable to maintain a fixed price per quintal that will cover the cost of a modest surplus. The fixed price that we would maintain would be from 130 to 150 lempiras per quintal to at least cover production costs," he argued.

Marcial Castillo:

"The losses produced by rust and the bean borer in most of the country's coffee-growing areas are rocking our feeble economy and will introduce a sequel of problems having considerable consequences," Marcial Castillo, a small grower from La Libertad, Comayagua, said yesterday.

"The real situation the coffee-growing industry is going through is a serious one and the small growers are about to disappear. The government has not listened to the appeal we made through AHPROCAFE," Marcial Castillo said.

"We recently applied to the government to grant us a special guarantee amounting to 7.5 million lempiras which was to be used to buy fumigating equipment. So far government officials have ignored us and become indifferent to the situation.

"We have already begun to fight and we plan to go on doing so, but the truth is that there is no cure for this problem and we are condemned to disappear as coffee growers; and in the end it will be the government that suffers a harsh blow since taxes will no longer be generated," he said.

"The disappearance of the coffee-growing industry will introduce social problems like the following" There will be unemployment, delinquency will be furthered, people will have no purchasing power and the rural population will move into urban areas to lengthen the long lines of misery. And our country can be very fertile soil for fomenting violence and hatred; and consequently, there will be no democracy," Marcial Castillo argued.

Armando Molina:

"The situation our country is now going through can be favorable for Honduran coffee growing provided that the politicians can help us resolve our problems," AHEPROCAFH secretary Armando Molina said.

On the other hand, the leader of the coffee growers said that they had recently applied for a guarantee to obtain the necessary financing to buy equipment and chemicals they needed, but that time had passed and the whole thing was still in the paper stage.

"Right now, we are demanding that they speed things up so that we may be granted the guarantee and subsequently obtain financing and begin to combat the rust disease," he emphasized.

Coffee growers Vicente Ortega and Pablo Hernandez also expressed similar opinions.

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CSO: 5400/2123

BRIEFS

VALLE DE SULA MEDFLY--Jorge Handal Bendeck, well-known citrus grower from this city affirmed to LA PRENSA that it is useless for the government to say that the Mediterranean fruit fly does not exist in the Sula Valley since he himself handed over one of these insects to Juan de Dios Herrera, a well-known professional who can testify to the fact that it is the fearsome little creature. The citrus grower showed the LA PRENSA reporters two papayas which, according to him, were infested with the Mediterranean fruit fly, making it urgent to take the proper steps in this matter. "What the Ministry of Natural Resources must do is request to the Mexican institute responsible for fighting the problem that it sterilize the flies by spraying them from airplanes or helicopters, so that the insects which exist here, may not reproduce themselves, and in that manner end the plague," Handal Bendeck said. The citrus grower also said that persons from the Association of Citrus Growers of Honduras who have contradicted him have orange groves yet know nothing about oranges. The interviewee warned that on many occasions he has revealed several plagues of different fruits and no one has believed him because what the government does is conceal what exists in the country; unfortunately for Honduras he always has hit the mark and now reaffirms that the dangerous fly, is in the Sula Valley and "would like that anyone truly show me otherwise," he said in conclusion. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Aug 83 p 10] 9989

PINE MITE IN YORO--The Honduran Corporation of Forestry Development has lost an estimated 500,000 lempiras due to the attack on the pine groves in the Yoro district. The plague has unleashed itself on an area of approximately 7,000 hectares traveling at least 100 meters a week in a circular fashion affecting, from June to the present time, some 4,000 cubic meters causing the aforementioned losses. According to what Salvador Romero, head of the Forestry District of Yoro, disclosed, most of the damaged forest is young. And the area most affected are the forests of Olanchito, Jocon, Yoro and Norazan. Mr Romero went on to reveal that the spread of the plague is reaching alarming proportions and that there exists the possibility of infestation on bordering areas; and due to the lack of financial and human resources, the situation cannot be handled. Nevertheless, with all of CONDEFOR's limitations, work groups have been formed whereby forestry groups are dispatched to Indian tribes where the salvaging cutting is in progress with the intention of checking the progress of the plague, Mr Romero finished saying. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 24 July 83 p 12] 12445

ARMY WOPMS INFEST MINDANAO FARMS

Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 6 Aug 83 p 7

[Text]

GENERAL SANTOS CITY — The Ministry of Agriculture this city reported today that some 790.5 hectares of rice lands in General Santos are infested by army worms.

MA Agronomist Rodolfo Doc-tolero reported that army worm infestation is now prevalent in the following barangays: Con-el — 112.75 hectares, Mabu-hay — 341.5, Tinagacan — 136.5, Olympog — 74, San Isidro — 11.75, Upper Labay — 53, New Society — 30 and San Jose — 31.

The Agriculture Ministry spokesman said that control mea-sures are currently being under-taken which include spraying of insecticides in army worm infest-ed areas supervised by MA field-men.

MA has likewise sought the as-sistance of the Sangguniang Pan-lungsod through Mayor Antonio C. Acharon to appropriate P40,-000 for the purchase of insecti-cides and rodenticides which will be used in anticipation of rat infestation. More of monetary assistance has been pledged by

members of local law-making bo-dy.

As a result of the control mea-sures, only 85 hectares of farm land remain infested by army worms.

Meanwhile, MA fieldmen in the city detected the presence of locusts in certain areas.

MA field personnel said that the presence of locusts has been detected on vacant lots and path-ways in Apopong, Cabuay, Nu-pol, Conel, Mabuhay, Klinan 6, Lanton Ranch, Crown T. Ranch, and Ngilay Ranch.

The MA forecast an initial out-break of locust infestation on the first week of August.

The MA report attributed the feared impending hopper infest-ations to the continuous rains starting from the second week of July which condition was fa-vorable to the hatching of lo-custs' eggs.

At this early stage, preven-tion measures have been stepped up to combat the impending lo-cust infestation. (OMA/Suda-ria).

CNO: 5600/4474

BRIEFS

THAI BINH INSECTS--In Thai Binh Province, more than 9,000 hectares of 10th-month rice crop are being ravaged by rice leaf beetles and rollers and stem borers. The provincial agricultural sector is urging agricultural cooperatives to consolidate vegetation protection teams and to adopt appropriate regulations and policies to encourage these teams to prevent and combat insects. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Aug 83 BK]

BINH TRI THIEN RICE--It is reported that leaf rollers, brown leafhoppers, stem borers, and rice leaf yellows have been found in nearly 20,000 hectares of summer-fall rice. The province is using a large part of its manpower and means to eradicate the insects to save rice from being destroyed. [Summary] [Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 29 Aug 83 BK]

MORE INSECT PROBLEMS--Noteworthy is the fact that the area infested with harmful insects has expanded. Up to 200,000 hectares of ricefields throughout the country must be rid of pests. In the northern provinces, the area infested with harmful insects, particularly stem borers, leaf rollers, and brown flies, has increased by nearly 100,000 hectares compared with the previous 10 days. Since there has been a great shortage of insecticides, localities must employ all other available means to eradicate the pockets of pests immediately. [OW310847 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Aug 83]

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